



1963

ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE HEALTH  
OF THE  
COWES URBAN DISTRICT

BY

JOHN MILLS

M.D., C.H.B., M.R.C.S. (ENG.), L.R.C.P. (LOND.), D.P.H.

*Medical Officer of Health*

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ISLE OF WIGHT:

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COUNTY HALL,

NEWPORT, I.W.

Tel. Newport 2261

*To the Members of the Cowes Urban District Council:—*

**MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS**

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year 1963.

The Birth Rate fell slightly from 16.2 to 15.5.

The Death Rate fell slightly from 14.7 to 14.2.

The Infantile Mortality Rate also fell slightly from 25.5 to 22.6.

The number of deaths from cancer fell from 57 to 49.

Lung cancer deaths fell from 10 to 8, five occurring in men and three in women.

Two male deaths from suicide were recorded.

No cases of food poisoning were notified.

**Measles**

During the year there was a small cyclical outbreak of measles in the district. Fifty-five cases were notified but none was serious enough to be admitted to hospital.

It appears that immunisation against this disease will soon be possible so that we may hope one more infectious disease will be overwhelmed by the tide of medical progress.

**Scarlet Fever**

The small number of cases of scarlet fever notified is of interest. At one time this was a very serious disease indeed with often grave complications. For various reasons associated with greatly improved social conditions and new drugs, the severity of the disease has steadily declined to a relatively mild form.

Scarlet fever is, of course, but one manifestation of infection by the haemolytic streptococcus and the true extent of streptococcal infection is not really reflected in the notifications.

## **Prophylaxis**

Once again I must emphasise that because of the great fall in incidence of the serious diseases such as smallpox, diphtheria and poliomyelitis, we must never be complacent and allow the programmes of immunisation to decrease. The wall of prophylaxis must be kept intact.

With full programmes of vaccination against smallpox, diphtheria, whooping cough, tuberculosis and poliomyelitis we are beginning to see the end of a collection of diseases responsible for an enormous amount of disfigurement, maiming and death.

## **— and Problems**

But as groups of diseases are overcome, new groups take their place.

Heart Disease, and crippling emotional disorders are on a rising tide.

At both ends of the life scale certain problems are attending the improvement in survival. Children who would have died previously often survive with perhaps various degrees of handicap, mental or physical or perhaps both. The expectation of life, especially in the case of women, is increased by advances in medical science. The problem of supplying the needs of the aged becomes more acute each year.

## **Cancer**

It has been advocated that the public ought to be given a certain amount of Health Education in order that they may recognize the earliest signs of cancer and so seek treatment while the disease is in a stage where its removal is likely to be successful.

However, it is by no means certain that knowledge of the early signs of cancer will in fact help. There are many cases of women doctors and nurses who, in spite of knowing virtually all there is to know about early signs, delay their own treatment because of fear.

The main problem is to dispel the feeling of panic which at the moment all too frequently follows the diagnosis of malignancy.

### Sewage Contamination of Beaches

Considering the number of sea outfalls there are at Cowes it is a matter of some astonishment that the coastline is so free from objectionable deposits.

Any attempt, as has been suggested, to collect the sewers together and pass the sewage to a treatment works would involve an astronomical expenditure.

### Removal of Persons in Need of Care and Attention

It was not necessary to invoke the powers contained in Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, during the year.

### Acknowledgements

It is a pleasure to again record the unfailing support of the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I am grateful also to Mr. Woods and all staff of the Public Health Department for their continued loyal co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN MILLS,

*Medical Officer of Health*

## PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS, 1963

Medical Officer of Health:—

JOHN MILLS, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P.  
(Lond.), D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector:—

P. G. WOODS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:—

D. J. SULLIVAN, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerk:—

MISS P. M. HINDMARCH

Rodent Operative:—

C. A. F. MORRIS

### GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	5,542
No. of inhabited houses (end of 1963) per rate books	...	...	...	...	...	5,712
Rateable value, as at 1.4.63	...	...	...	...	...	£580,408
Sums represented by 1d. rate (1962-63)	...	...	...	...	...	£1,034

### SOCIAL CONDITIONS

These are unchanged since the last report.

### EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Population (Registrar General's Figures)	...	17,080
Live birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	...	15.5
Comparative factor (births)	...	1.19
Comparative Birth Rate	...	18.4
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	32.8
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	14.2
Comparative factor (deaths)	...	0.86
Comparative death rate	...	12.2
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	...	Nil
Infantile Mortality:—		
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	22.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	...	24.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	49
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	Nil

### BIRTHS

The total number of live births was 265, of which 247 were legitimate and 18 illegitimate. The live birth rate was 15.5 per 1,000 living: the birth rate for England and Wales being 18.2.

### INFANTILE MORTALITY

The Infantile Mortality rate was 22.6 per 1,000 registered live births, the rate for England and Wales being 21.1.

#### DEATHS

The number of deaths was 243 giving a death rate of 14.2 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 12.2.

CAUSES OF DEATH		MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	...	—	—
Syphilitic disease	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	—	—
Measles	...	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	3	—
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	6	—
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	4	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	22	7	—
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1	—
Diabetes	1	2	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	18	—
Coronary disease, angina	23	14	—
Hypertension with heart disease	3	6	—
Other heart disease	15	21	—
Other circulatory disease	3	4	—
Influenza	4	—	—
Pneumonia	3	5	—
Bronchitis	13	6	—
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	1	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6	12	—
Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	—
All other accidents	3	6	—
Suicide	2	—	—
Other violent causes	—	—	—
<b>ALL CAUSES</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>118</b>

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)  
DURING THE YEAR 1963**

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Food Poisoning	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	... 2	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Measles	... 55	—	—
Whooping Cough	... 1	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Dysentery	... 2	—	—
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8*</b>

\*This figure represents certain cases of pneumonia which are not notifiable.

**AGE AT DATE OF NOTIFICATION**

Age	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Dysentery	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Whooping Cough	Measles	Meningococcal Infection	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning	Acute Encephalitis
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—
4	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
5	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—	—	—	—	—
10	15	—	2	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
15	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25	35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1</b>

## TUBERCULOSIS, 1963

AGE PERIODS	Totals	New Cases				Totals	Deaths				
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
		M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
0 and under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
1 .. .. 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
5 .. .. 10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
10 .. .. 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
15 .. .. 20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
20 .. .. 25	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
25 .. .. 35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
35 .. .. 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
45 .. .. 55	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
55 .. .. 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
65 and over	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	
Total	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	

In addition to the above cases notified within the District 1 pulmonary male and 4 pulmonary female cases transferred from the mainland during the year.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE URBAN DISTRICT

The ensuing portion of this Report has again been prepared by your Senior Public Health Inspector, giving details of the inspections and general work of the Public Health Department for the year 1963.

With a full complement of two Public Health Inspectors throughout the year, the volume of work carried out has been maintained at roughly the same level as for the previous year. In actual fact 63 fewer inspections were made.

The first five-year programme for Slum Clearance, as submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government 17th February, 1955, was completed during the year, in which the last ten houses of that programme were dealt with.

The new five-year Slum Clearance programme is being delayed by the difficulty in re-housing families from properties already condemned. It is a slow process to re-house such families into Council-owned accommodation when comparatively few, at a sufficiently low rent, become available for re-letting.

On only one occasion during the year was it found necessary to take legal action and this was for failure to comply with the requirements of a Statutory Notice under the Public Health Act, 1936, in connection with the improper keeping of animals.

### PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTIONS IN THE AREA

These totals represent all inspections and other visits carried out by the Public Health Inspectors.

<b>Number of dwelling houses inspected (first inspection)</b>	...	...	...	...	1,246
<b>Number of dwelling houses inspected (re-inspection)</b>	...	...	...	...	1,464
<b>Other inspections (first inspection)</b>	...	...	...	...	989
<b>Other inspections (re-inspection)</b>	...	...	...	...	1,202
<b>Ineffectual visits</b>	...	...	...	...	367
					<hr/>
			<b>Total</b>	...	<b>5,268</b>
					<hr/> <hr/>

## NOTICES SERVED

			Informal	Formal
Public Health Act	...	...	126	12
Meat Inspection Regulations	...		2	—
Food Hygiene Regulations &				
Food and Drugs Act	...		22	—
Factories Act	...	...	5	—
Shops Act	...	...	1	—
Clean Air Act	...	...	1	—
Noise Abatement Act	...	...	1	—
Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act	...	...	1	—
Notices complied with	...	...	82	12
<i>Letters concerning:</i> —				
Housing management	...	...	...	89
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	31

## DETAILS AND NUMBERS OF INSPECTIONS

**Public Health Acts**

Houses inspected for nuisances	...	...	1349
Office premises	...	...	3
Verminous premises	...	...	8
Other insects	...	...	11
Ponds, ditches and watercourses	...	...	70
Tents, vans, sheds, caravans	...	...	408
Animals, pigs, poultry	...	...	76
Accumulations of refuse	...	...	18
Dustbins	...	...	2
Drainage, tested and inspected	...	...	423
Yards, passages, car parks	...	...	1

**Infectious Diseases**

Enquiries and Collections	...	...	57
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**Food and Drugs Act, and Food Hygiene Regulations**

Restaurants	...	...	...	...	184
Butchers shops	...	...	...	...	128
Fish shops	...	...	...	...	11
Fried Fish shops	...	...	...	...	8
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	17
Grocers	...	...	...	...	63
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	29
Ice-cream shops, premises and vehicles	...	...	...	...	51
Cooked Meat shops	...	...	...	...	10

Licensed premises	...	...	...	...	25
Wholesale Meat premises	...	...	...	...	45
Other food premises	...	...	...	...	20
Unsound food	...	...	...	...	42
<b>Sampling</b>					
Ice-cream samples	...	...	...	...	52
Water samples	...	...	...	...	27
<b>Housing Acts</b>					
Certificates of Disrepair	...	...	...	...	1
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	—
Section 9. Inspections	...	...	...	...	—
Section 16. Inspections	...	...	...	...	2
Inspections re Clearance areas	...	...	...	...	54
<b>Council Houses</b>					
Inspections	...	...	...	...	313
Housing applicants	...	...	...	...	154
Housing enquiries	...	...	...	...	69
Conditions of tenancy	...	...	...	...	98
<b>Factories Act</b>					
Inspections and enquiries (mechanical power)	...	...	...	...	82
Inspections and enquiries (non-mechanical power)	...	...	...	...	5
<b>Clean Air Act</b>					
Observations and visits	...	...	...	...	20
<b>Shops Act</b>					
Inspections and enquiries	...	...	...	...	94
<b>Miscellaneous</b>					
Holiday Camps, etc.	...	...	...	...	21
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	20
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	14
Visits to owners or builders	...	...	...	...	371
Bathing establishments	...	...	...	...	23
Searches (Land Registry)	...	...	...	...	19
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	346
Pet Animals Act	...	...	...	...	2
Oil Burners (Standards) Act	...	...	...	...	7
Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations	...	...	...	...	13
Food complaints	...	...	...	...	2
Fairs	...	...	...	...	3
Barbers and Hairdressers	...	...	...	...	21
Police Court	...	...	...	...	2

Rent Act ... ... ... ...	2
Noise Abatement Act ... ... ...	3
Animal Boarding Establishment Act	2
Ineffectual visits ... ... ...	367
 Total ... ...	 <u>5,268</u>

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

The Public Health Inspectors continued their general duties of investigating complaints, securing the abatement of statutory nuisances and dealing with contraventions of the Public Health and other Acts. In this connection 839 complaints were received from members of the public.

Particulars of the various nuisances and defects remedied in properties totalling 216 are tabulated below:—

Doors, windows, frames, floors, sashcords repaired	20
Grates, flues, chimneys repaired	4
Gutters, roofs and rainwater pipes repaired	25
Defective and/or choked drains remedied	53
Water closets and flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	24
Accumulations of refuse removed	18
Wall and ceiling plasters repaired	13
Sinks repaired or renewed	2
New water supplies provided	2
Defective walls and pointing renewed	2
Dampness abated	31
Septic tanks and cesspools emptied	121
Vermin eradicated	5
Verminous bedding and furniture destroyed	1
Destruction of bedding following disease	2
Artificial lighting	—
Hot water supply installed	—
Protection of food	7
Decorations in food premises	22
Cleansing	1
New sinks installed	1
Yard paving repaired	2
Dustbins provided	4
Heating provided	1
Ventilation provided	—

## RODENT CONTROL

343 complaints of infestation by rodents were made to the Public Health Department during the year and the following inspections and treatments were carried out:—

	<i>Private Houses</i>	<i>Business Premises</i>		<i>Council-owned Premises</i>		<i>Agricultural Premises</i>		<i>Sewer Treatments</i>	<i>Hospitals and Schools</i>
		C*	N/C*	D.H.*	O.P.*	C*	N/C*		
<i>Initial Visits</i>									
Rats	364	90	114	48	48	40	31	52	7
Mice	79	84	36	16	11	4	—	—	4
Totals	443	174	150	64	59	44	31	52	11
<i>Re-visits</i>									
Rats	1214	306	47	181	187	155	—	—	8
Mice	278	289	45	64	54	23	—	—	9
Totals	1492	595	92	245	241	178	—	—	17
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>1935</b>	<b>769</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>28</b>

C\*—Contract    N/C\*—Non Contract    D.H.\*—Dwelling Houses

O.P.\*—Other Premises

639 minor rat infestations and 1 major and 252 minor mice infestations were dealt with.

After treatments by poisoning with warfarin, the bodies of 463 rats and 205 mice were recovered and destroyed.

The considerable increase in the number of minor rat infestations is thought to have been caused to a large extent, by the wet summer. Those rats that normally live in the fields and feed on waste grain, etc., sought food and shelter in and around nearby houses because, owing to the dampness, that grain had rotted and they were without their usual source of food supply.

The one major mice infestation occurred at a garden sundries and pet-food shop left unattended on the death of the owner. Some delay resulted before clearance of the stock could be effected owing to the fact that the owner died intestate, during which time the premises became heavily infested.

## VERMIN AND INSECT CONTROL

It is a sign of the present higher standard of general cleanliness when compared with the past, that so few complaints of flea infestations were received by the Department during the year.

Isolated complaints of the presence of other insects, such as cockroaches and other beetles, woodlice, ants, etc., were satisfactorily dealt with and the pests destroyed by treatment with Gammia B.H.C. and/or Pybuthrin base powders, and Chlordane/D.D.T. and Dieldrin or Lindane base liquid sprays.

The poor summer was again responsible for a lessening in the numbers of wasps in evidence. Similarly to the previous summer, the small number of 36 wasps nests were destroyed by the staff of the Public Health Department using Cymag powder. This may be compared with the destruction of well over one hundred nests in a good summer.

### DRAINAGE

As in previous years the supervision of drainage work to new buildings and the repair of existing drainage was carried out by the Public Health Inspectors until the appointment of a Building Inspector by this Authority in October.

Up to that time 423 visits were made in connection with repairs and alterations and 68 new drainage systems were subjected to water or air tests.

On his appointment the Building Inspector undertook the inspection and testing of new drainage.

### HOUSING

An abstract from the statement submitted to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government is summarised below:—

#### HOUSING ACT, 1957

##### 1. HOUSES DEMOLISHED OR CLOSED

Demolished or closed as a result of formal or informal procedure

Closed	...	...	...	...	...	7
Deniolished	...	...	...	...	...	13

##### 2. REPAIRS

Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the year as a result of informal action under the Housing and Public Health Acts

...	...	...	175
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## 3. PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS. FORMAL ACTION

Housing in which defects were remedied:—

(a) By owners ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
(b) By Local Authorities in default of owners						Nil

## 4. HOUSING ACT, 1957. FORMAL ACTION

Housing in which defects were remedied:—

(a) By owners ...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) By Local Authorities in default of owners						Nil

The total properties dealt with, which have been either demolished, purchased by the Council for the purpose of demolition, closed or in the process of clearance since August 1955 is 126. This includes 16 individual unfit dwellings which have been discovered during normal housing inspections.

This completes the first 5-year Slum Clearance programme as submitted to and approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

## COUNCIL HOUSING

The practice of dividing the administration of this work between the Clerk's Department and the Public Health Department continues as in previous years.

634 visits and inspections were carried out in connection with all housing management matters delegated to the department. This figure included 313 inspections of houses to determine their condition of repair, overcrowding, redecoration, observance of Conditions of Tenancy and whether the premises were maintained in a cleanly condition.

The number of new houses built within the Urban District during the year was as follows:—

Local Authority ...	Nil houses
Housing Association	Nil houses
Private Enterprise ...	79 houses
 TOTAL ...	 79 houses

## IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Applications for Discretionary Grants were again considered by the Council during the year.

Five applications were received, 1 of which was refused; the remaining 4 were approved for grants of 40% of the cost of the proposed improvements.

Seventy-three applications were received for Standard Grants, all but one of which were found to comply with the requirements to render them eligible to receive the permitted amount of money for the improvements involved.

During the year the following payments were made:—

- (a) Discretionary Grants 3. Total cost £610 10s. 0d.
- (b) Standard Grants 44. Total cost £5,313 15s. 4d.

## RENT ACT, 1957

No application was received for a Certificate of Disrepair during the year.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES

There are no registered Common Lodging Houses in this district.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD PREMISES

The number of premises subject to the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 and 1960 is appended:—

Restaurants, kiosks, canteens	...	...	...	33
Butchers shops	...	...	...	18
Fishmongers, Poulterers and fried fish shops				10
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	16
Grocers	...	...	...	76
Bakehouses, bakers and confectioners				10
Cooked meat shops	...	...	...	3
Licensed premises	...	...	...	28
Meat storage depots	...	...	...	4
Hotels and Clubs	...	...	...	15
Confectioners (sweets)	...	...	...	23

633 visits and inspections were made in connection with food premises to which the Food Hygiene Regulations apply.

The following items included in informal notices indicate the defects and contraventions found as a result of the original inspections.

Number of notices served	...	...	...	22
Defects and contraventions specified in notices:—				
Cleansing enforced	...	...	...	1
Redecoration	...	...	...	22
Protection of foods	...	...	...	7
Wash-hand basins provided	...	...	...	1
Sinks provided or improved	...	...	...	1
Sanitary conveniences defective or insufficient	...	...	...	24
New dustbins provided	...	...	...	4

### UNSOUND FOOD

The amounts of various foods which were condemned and voluntarily surrendered during the year under review are given below:—

Tins and jars of fish, fruit, vegetables, milk and cooked meats, to a total weight of	...	...	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	lbs.
Butter	...	...		1	2	0
Cheese	...	...		1	0	10
Cake	...	...			3	1
Biscuits	...	...	4		1	18
Tea	...	...		2	0	13
Coffee	...	...				10
Cocoa	...	...			1	14
Sugar	...	...	3		2	13
Sweets	...	...		5	3	6
Dried Fruit	...	...			2	1
Frozen Foods	...	...			1	12
Fish	...	...				8
Sausages	...	...			2	9
Meat and Offal	...	...	6		0	4
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		—	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>
		=	=	=	=	=

This unusually high grand total includes just over 4 tons of assorted foods, destroyed or sufficiently damaged to render them unfit for human consumption, in a fire at a local factory canteen.

The "Meat and Offal" total includes 4081bs. of Argentine Beef grossly contaminated by Diesel Fuel Oil. An accident while loading on to the ship, conveying the meat from Southampton to Cowes, resulted in a number of fore-quarters becoming soaked in oil.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

#### Ice Cream

The number of premises registered in this district for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream is 113.

Four new registrations were made during 1963.

Fifty-two samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination, the results of which were as follows:—

Grade I	...	...	38 samples
Grade II	...	...	10 samples
Grade III	...	...	4 samples
Grade IV	...	...	Nil samples

These results may be considered very satisfactory as, if one includes Grade II results as being so little removed from completely satisfactory as to be acceptably free from impurity or contamination, this produces a 92% proportion of "satisfactory" sample results.

The absence of Grade IV results may well indicate that the work, instruction and persuasion of the Public Health Inspectors in the cause of "clean food", is at last showing the desired results.

### FOOD AND DRUGS SAMPLING

For the period from April 1963 to March 1964, the following samples of food and drugs were taken in the Cowes Urban District by the Isle of Wight County Council, who are the Food and Drugs Authority for the area:—

Article Sampled	No. of samples obtained	Unsatisfactory
Milk (a) ... ... ...	65 (53 Raw, 12 Past.)	11
Milk (b) ... ... ...	42	3
Butter ... ... ...	2	—
Butter Beans ... ... ...	1	—
Cough Linctus ... ... ...	1	—
Cough and Cold Mixture ... ... ...	1	—
Margarine ... ... ...	1	—

Minced Meat Loaf	...	1	—
Phosphorine Tablets	...	1	—
Pork Sausages	...	10	3
Potted Beef with Butter		1	—
Pork Slice	...	1	—
Rose Hip Syrup	...	1	—
Soft Drinks	...	1	—
Stewed Steak with Gravy		1	1
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TOTALS	...	130	18
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Milk (a) taken for keeping quality.

Milk (b) taken for compositional quality.

I am indebted to the Sampling Officer of the Isle of Wight County Council for these figures.

### SHOPS ACT, 1950

There are 314 shops in this district, and the keeping of a register of such premises is a legal obligation.

Eighty Shops Act inspections were made during the year which included evening and Sunday observations in connection with "Hours of Closing". In this connection the Council exercise delegated powers from the Isle of Wight County Council.

The one informal notice served was in connection with insufficient heating and it was not found necessary to resort to formal action.

Minor infringements and irregularities were dealt with by verbal warnings and advice, which produced the desired result.

### WATER SUPPLY

The mains water supply to the Cowes area is derived solely from the Isle of Wight Water Board, an authority upon which all local authorities on the Island have representation.

The sources of this supply remain as previously, mainly from the wells and boreholes in the chalk and green sand at Carisbrooke and the Bowcombe Valley, supplemented by approximately 20% per day from the local deep well at Broadfields Pumping Station.

Analyses of local water supplies show no evidence of plumbo-solvent action and no special precautions are there-

fore considered necessary. There is a natural fluoride content of rather less than two parts per million.

There are 5,752 dwelling houses in the area with a population of 17,000, all of which are supplied from the mains.

Samples for bacteriological examination continue to be taken regularly by the staff of the Water Board and results sent to the Public Health Department. Where considered necessary check samples as taken by the Public Health Inspectors. The source of the supplies to the sub-areas included in the table below is subject to variation. The results of the 100 samples taken were:—

	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Suspicious</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>West Cowes</b>				
Broadfields Well	...	...	4	2
Low Level Area	...	...	24	2
Tower Area	...	...	16	—
Newport Road Filtered water area	...	...	1	—
Newport Supply Area	...	...	16	—
<b>East Cowes</b>				
Tower area	...	...	13	1
Reservoir area	...	...	10	—
Newport Supply Area	...	...	6	—

It will be seen that of the 90 samples taken from consumers' taps, only one was classified as Unsatisfactory, and a subsequent check sample produced a satisfactory result.

### SWIMMING AND PADDLING POOL

There are no swimming pools in the district open to the general public, the only pool being in the grounds of a holiday camp, which is in continuous use by the camp visitors during the summer season, and is also used for swimming instruction to the pupils of two local schools by the Isle of Wight Education Authority, by permission of the camp owners.

Ten water samples were taken from this pool for bacteriological examination, eight of which produced satisfactory results.

Both unsatisfactory samples showed the presence of Coliforms in comparatively small numbers, and were taken

from the deep-end of the swimming pool—the opposite end to that at which the chlorine feed is introduced.

In one case, the pool, although filled, was not in use owing to bad weather. The chlorine injection, normally running day and night was therefore cut off at night-time. This, together with the fact that strong winds had blown a quantity of debris on to the surface of the water seemed to explain the adverse result.

In the second instance, again at a time of high winds and with debris blown into the water, it was thought that the wind strength on the surface may have impeded the free circulation of chlorine throughout the bulk of water at the deep end of the pool.

The owner was advised that the provision of some form of substantial wind-break was desirable before next summer season.

There is a children's paddling pool at this camp and another at a Caravan Camp. Both are fed from the Isle of Wight Water Board mains, and are suitably chlorinated. At the former site the four samples taken all produced satisfactory results.

Five samples were taken from the pool at the Caravan Camp, four of which were satisfactory. The unsatisfactory sample produced a very bad result and investigation proved that the probable reason for the contamination was the frequent presence of dogs in the water.

Steps were immediately taken to prevent this continuing. The inner surfaces of the pool were cleansed and re-painted and a fence erected around the pool. Subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

A third children's paddling pool, owned by the Local Authority, is situated on East Cowes Esplanade.

Hand-chlorination of the sea water in this pool by the daily addition of "Chlorsan" fluid, was followed by Lovibond Comparator tests to ascertain the residual chlorine content, which showed an average of 2.5 parts per million per sample.

Eight samples were taken for bacteriological examination, all of which proved satisfactory.

### CARAVAN SITES

With one exception, all site operators are proceeding to comply with the requirements of the conditions specified in the site licences issued under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, by the Local Authority.

All major works at these sites, such as the provision of sanitary conveniences, hand-washing and laundry facilities, showers, etc., have been carried out, and the less important provisions such as footpaths, hard-standings for caravans and surfaced car-parking areas are proceeding.

The exception to the above was delayed by difficulties in agreeing with the Town Planning Authority the situation of the necessary additional sanitary, etc., accommodation. This is expected to proceed in the near future.

### MILK SUPPLIES

There are 52 registered milk dealers in the District.

### FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK AND DAIRIES) ACTS, 1944 URBAN DISTRICT OF COWES

Samples of milk were taken during the year from herds whose milk is retailed raw without heat treatment. These samples were examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Portsmouth, for the presence of live Tuberclle Bacilli.

Number of samples taken for T.B. during 1963	...	65
Number of samples found to be positive	...	Nil
Number of samples found to be negative	...	64
Number of samples in which Brucella Abortus was isolated	...	Nil
Number of void samples	...	1

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Local Authorities or "District Councils" as they are termed under the Factory Act, 1937, are responsible for administering the provisions relating to:—

Sanitary conveniences in all types of factories;

Cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature and ventilation in non-mechanical power factories; and

Homework (Outworkers)—Condition of premises in relation to health of outworkers.

A summary of the information required by the Ministry is tabulated below:—

### PART I OF THE ACT

#### 1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	4	5	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	70	82	5	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	—	—	—
Total	77	87	6	—

## 2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the preutises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three or more "eases").

Particulars	Number of eases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	1	—	1	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	6	6	—	1	—

## PART VIII OF THE ACT

### OUTWORK. (Section 110 (1) (c) (2) )

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Lampshades	44	—	—	—	—	—
Other classes of work	7	—	—	—	—	—
Total	51	—	—	—	—	—





